

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1           1.       A timer with multiple and personalized audio  
2 indicators, comprising:

3           a housing having a base, a front surface, a rear surface,  
4 and side surfaces extending between the front surface and the  
5 rear surface, the housing defining a cavity, the front surface  
6 having an opening communicating with the cavity;

7           a faceplate having a front surface and rear surface, the  
8 faceplate being removably attached over the opening defined in  
9 the front surface of the housing;

10          first timer circuit means disposed within the cavity  
11 defined in the housing for repetitively counting down a first  
12 time interval and activating an audio signal each time the first  
13 time interval expires;

14          second timer circuit means disposed within the cavity  
15 defined in the housing for activating the first timer circuit  
16 means for a second time interval longer than the first time  
17 interval;

          time selection means for programmably selecting a duration  
18 of the first and second time intervals;  
19

20 a memory device having a plurality of sounds electronically  
21 stored within attached to the rear surface of the faceplate; and  
22 audio circuit means for producing any of the electronic  
23 sounds stored in the memory device when the timer circuit means  
24 activates the audio signal.

1 2. The timer according to claim 1, wherein said first and  
2 second timer circuit means include a central processing unit,  
3 program memory, a display panel, timer control buttons, and  
4 computer readable program code means stored in the program  
5 memory, wherein the code means further comprising:

6 first instruction means for selecting the first time  
7 interval;

8 second instruction means for selecting the second time  
9 interval;

10 third instruction means for consecutively assigning each of  
11 said plurality of stored sounds to sequential first time  
12 intervals; and

13 fourth instruction means for requesting a sound to be  
14 generated by the audio circuit means upon completion of each  
15 time interval.

1           3.    The timer according to claim 2, further comprising a  
2 microphone, and wherein the code means further comprises:

3           fifth instruction means for storing audible signals from  
4 said microphone and assigning said microphone generated audible  
5 signals to a user selected time interval;

6           sixth instruction means for resetting the audible signal to  
7 an initial state; and

8           seventh instruction means for displaying the time remaining  
9 in the time block and the time remaining in the time interval.

1           4.    The timer according to claim 1, wherein said memory  
2 device has conductive terminals adapted to cooperatively engage  
3 said first and second timer circuit means, whereby mounting the  
4 faceplate to said housing electrically interconnects said memory  
5 device with said first and second timer circuit means, whereby  
6 the plurality of distinctive sounds stored on the memory device  
7 are accessible by said audio circuit means.

1           5.    The timer according to claim 1, further comprising  
2 battery means for providing an operative voltage to said first  
3 and second timer circuit means and said audio circuit means.

1           6.    The timer according to claim 5, wherein said battery  
2 means includes at least one pair of terminals adapted to receive  
3 at least one battery.

1           7.    A method of setting an interval timer with multiple and  
2 personalized indicators, comprising the steps of:

3           selecting a block of time by means of an alphanumeric  
4 screen and control buttons, whereby the time block selected may  
5 be in gradients of one minute;

6           selecting a time interval shorter than the greater time  
7 block, the time interval being any number of user selected  
8 minutes;

9           automatically assigning each of a plurality of distinctive  
10 sounds to sequentially triggered time intervals; and

11          generating an audible signal upon completion of each time  
12 interval. fifth instruction means for storing audible signals  
13 from said microphone and assigning said microphone generated  
14 audible signals to a user selected interval.

1           8.    The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps  
2 of:  
3           resetting the timer circuitry means and reinitializing the  
4 sound indicators to their initial state prior to modification by  
5 the use of said microphone; and  
6           displaying the time remaining in the time block and the  
7 time remaining in the time interval.

1        9. A method teaching young children the concept of time,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3        mounting an age appropriate faceplate with integrated sound  
4 memory device to a timer adapted to receive the faceplate;  
5        selecting a block of time by means of an alphanumeric  
6 screen and control buttons, whereby the time block selected may  
7 be in gradients of one minute;  
8        selecting a time interval shorter than the greater time  
9 block, the time interval being any number of user selected  
10 minutes;  
11        generating an audible signal upon completion of each time  
12 interval, the audible signal automatically selected from the  
13 stored memory device; and  
14        displaying the time remaining in the time block and the  
15 time remaining in the time interval.